

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) A hair styling tool comprising:

a handle portion having a pair of pivotally connected arms, each arm having a hair contacting element; and

a heater within at least one of said pivotally connected arms;

wherein at least one of said hair contacting elements has one or more apertures therein, wherein said one or more apertures are in the form of perforated grooves, and wherein said one or more apertures are in communication with one or more vents of the hair styling tool to vent moisture, heat and/or pressure.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original) The hair styling tool of claim 1, wherein said arms are pivotally connected at a proximal end thereof.

4. (Previously presented) The hair styling tool of claim 1, wherein said at least one of said hair contacting elements is operatively located at a distal end thereof.

5. (Previously presented) The hair styling tool of claim 1, wherein said at least one of said hair contacting elements is a heat conductive plate and thermally interactive with the hair styling tool to effectively apply heat to selected

portions of hair as desired.

6. (Previously presented) The hair styling tool of claim 1, wherein said at least one of said hair contacting elements has a hair contacting surface.

7. (Original) The hair styling tool of claim 6, wherein said hair contacting surface is at least substantially planar.

8. (Original) The hair styling tool of claim 6, wherein said hair contacting surface is corrugated.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Original) The hair styling tool of claim 9, wherein said one or more vents are in said distal end of said arms.

11. (Previously presented) A hair contacting element of a hair styling tool comprising:

a heatable hair contacting surface having a plurality of recessed apertures,

wherein said plurality of recessed apertures are in communication with a corresponding number of vents in said hair styling tool to vent moisture, heat and/or pressure.

12. (Original) The hair contacting element of claim 11, further comprising a groove for connection to a tongue of said hair styling tool.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Original) The hair contacting element of claim 11, wherein said heatable hair contacting surface is substantially planer.

15. (Original) The hair contacting element of claim 11, wherein said plurality of recessed apertures and said vents of said hair styling tool align with each other.

16. (Original) The hair contacting element of claim 11, wherein said plurality of recessed apertures are located throughout said heatable hair contacting surface in a random manner.

17. (Original) The hair contacting element of claim 11, wherein said plurality of recessed apertures are located in a predefined pattern.

18. (Original) The hair contacting element of claim 11, wherein said heatable hair contacting surface is corrugated.

19. (Original) The hair contacting element of claim 18, wherein said plurality of recessed apertures and said vents of said hair styling tool align with each other.

20. (Original) The hair contacting element of claim 18, wherein said plurality of recessed apertures are located in a predefined pattern.

21. (Previously presented) A hair styling tool comprising:

a handle portion having a pair of pivotally connected arms, each arm having a hair contacting element;

a heater within at least one of said pivotally connected arms; and

one or more apertures in at least one of said hair contacting elements and one or more apertures in at least one additional surface of said pivotally connected arms, wherein said apertures are adapted to vent moisture, heat and/or pressure.